Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding NFIF-14b polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

2. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid encoding NFIF-7a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

3. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of Claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid is a cDNA.

4. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid of Claim 2 wherein said DNA is a cDNA.

5. (Withdrawn) An isolated and purified NFIF-14b polypeptide which induces NFKB and comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

6. (Withdrawn) An isolated and purified NFIF-7a polypeptide which induces NFKB and comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

7. (Withdrawn) A method of increasing expression of NFKB in a patient comprising introducing into the body of said patient a composition that induces NFKB.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 7 wherein said composition comprises an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding NFIF-14b polypeptide.

9. (Withdrawn) The vector of Claim 8 selected from the group consisting of retroviral vectors, adenoviral vectors, adeno-associated viral vectors, herpesviral vectors, and naked DNA vectors.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 7 wherein said composition comprises an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding NFIF-7a polypeptide.

11. (Withdrawn) The vector of Claim 10 selected from the group consisting of retroviral vectors, adenoviral vectors, adeno-associated viral vectors, herpesviral vectors, and naked DNA vectors.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 7 wherein said composition comprises a NFIF-14b polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 7 wherein .said composition comprises a NFIF-7a polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. (Withdrawn) A composition for lowering the expression of the NFIF gene in a patient comprising an antisense nucleic acid.

15. (Withdrawn) A composition for lowering the activity of an NFIF polypeptide in a patient comprising a neutralizing antibody that binds to an NFIF polypeptide and lowers its activity.

16. (Withdrawn) A composition for lowering the expression of NFIF in a patient comprising a ribozyme that cuts RNA encoding an NFIF polypeptide.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for evaluating. whether a test compound is effective in inhibiting the activity of NFIF-14b based on the expression of an NFκB-regulated reporter gene . comprising:

(A) comparing the level of NFκB-regulated gene expression in a first sample comprising: (1) NFIF-14b; (2) said NFκB-regulated reporter gene; and (3) said test compound with the level of gene expression in a second sample comprising (4) NFIF-14b; and (5) said NFκB-regulated reporter gene; and

(B) determining whether the expression of said reporter gene is lower in said first sample relative to said second sample.

18. (Withdrawn) A method for evaluating whether a test compound is effective in inhibiting the activity of NFIF-7a based on expression of an NFκB-regulated reporter gene comprising:

(A) comparing the level of NFκB-regulated gene expression in a first sample comprising: (1) NFIF-7a; (2) said NFκB-regulated reporter gene; and (3) said test compound with the level of gene expression in a second sample comprising: (4) NFIF-7a; and (5) said NFκB-regulated reporter gene; and

(B) determining whether the expression of said reporter gene is lower in said first sample relative to said second sample.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying whether a test compound can enhance the activity of NFIF-14b based on the expression of an NFκB-regulated reporter gene comprising:

(A) comparing the level of NFκB-regulated gene expression in a first sample comprising (1) NFIF-14b; (2) said NFκB-regulated reporter gene; and (3) said test compound with the level of gene expression in a second sample comprising: (4) NFIF-14b; and (5) said NFκB-regulated .reporter gene; and (B) determining whether the expression of said reporter gene is higher in said first sample relative to said second sample.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for identifying compounds which enhance the activity of NFIF-7a based on the expression of an NFκB-regulated reporter gene comprising:.

(A) comparing the level of NFκB-regulated gene expression in a first sample comprising: (1) NFIF-7a; (2) said NFκB-regulated reporter gene; and (3) said test compound with the level of gene expression in a second sample comprising: (4) NFIF-7a; and (5) said NFκB-regulated reporter gene; and (B) determining whether the expression of said reporter gene is higher in said first sample relative to said second sample.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting expression of NFκB-dependent genes comprising administration to a patient of a composition that inhibits the activity of NFIF-14b.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting expression of NFκB-dependent genes comprising administration to a patient of a composition that inhibits the activity of NFIF-7a.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting inflammation comprising administration of a composition that inhibits the activity of NFIF-14b.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting inflammation comprising administration of a composition that inhibits the activity of NFIF-7a.

25. (Withdrawn) Use of an isolated NFIF polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1) for the manufacture of a medicament intended for the treatment and/or prevention of an NFκB-regulated inflammatory response.

26. (Previously presented) A method for treatment or prevention of an NFκB-regulated inflammatory response in a patient comprising administering to said patient a nucleic acid encoding an NFIF polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

27. (Previously presented) A method for treatment or prevention of an NFκB-regulated inflammatory response in a patient comprising administering to said patient a recombinant vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding an NFIF polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

28. (Previously presented) A method for treatment or prevention of an NFκB-regulated inflammatory response in a patient comprising administering to said patient a defective recombinant viral vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding an NFIF polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

29. (Withdrawn) Use of an isolated NFIF polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) for the manufacture of a medicament intended for the treatment and/or prevention of an NFκB-regulated inflammatory response.

30. (Withdrawn) Use of a nucleic acid encoding an NFIF polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) for the manufacture of a medicament intended for the treatment and/or prevention of an NFκB-regulated inflammatory response.

31. (Withdrawn) Use of a recombinant vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding an NFIF polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) for the manufacture of a medicament intended for the treatment and/or prevention of an NFκB-regulated inflammatory response.

32. (Withdrawn) Use of a defective recombinant viral vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding an NFIF polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) for the manufacture of a medicament intended for the treatment and/or prevention of an NFκB-regulated inflammatory response.